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A Short History of the Hebrews to the Roman Period. By REV. R. L. OTTLEY. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1901. Pp. ix + 324. \$1.25.

The above work is intended to serve as a text-book for students of Hebrew history. The more important results of modern historical science as applied to the documents of the Old Testament are accepted and made the basis of the work. The point of view is similar to that of Kittel and other scholars of the mediating school; for example, the personality of the patriarchs Abraham and Jacob is held to, but the sons of Jacob are treated as tribal personifications. No allusion is made to Winckler's Muçri, nor to the reconstruction of post-exilic history offered by Kusters, Cheyne, and others. The tone of the work is dogmatic rather than such as to encourage and stimulate investigation. The author is not always sufficiently rigorous and consistent in historical method; in the story of the wilderness wanderings and the events at Sinai, for instance, no attempt is made to distinguish between the historical and the legendary. The treatment of the miraculous element in the narrative is somewhat arbitrary, the accounts being sometimes accepted at their face value, as, *e. g.*, in the case of the story of the crossing of the Jordan (p. 84); while at other times the miraculous features are discredited and explained away, as, *e. g.*, in the case of the falling of the walls of Jericho (p. 85). Reference should be made on p. 169 to Marti's¹ proposed rendering of l. 8 of the Moabite stone which removes the discrepancy as to dates that exists between this monument and 2 Kings 1:1 on the basis of the usual rendering. To the list of books on pp. 313 f. the works of McCurdy and Kent should certainly be added.

As an attempt to furnish younger students with a positive, constructive statement of "the actual course of Hebrew history, somewhat more consistent with the present state of our knowledge than the text-books now in use" (p. vii), the book is worthy of much praise and may be numbered among the two or three books of this class that are reasonably safe guides. The excellent maps which illustrate the text are an admirable feature, as are also the appendices on "The Documentary Sources of the Narrative" and "Hebrew Legislation."

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¹ *Encyclopædia Biblica*, Vol. I, col. 792, note.